

ACTION ITEMS

Recommendations of the Exiting Standards Commissioners

1. The state will develop tests for the five subject core areas of math, language arts/communications, science, social studies and health. These tests will conform to the content and skills contained in the current version of the Idaho Exiting Standards.
2. The State will administer, and score tests covering math, reading, and writing for all public school students during the second semester of their junior year.
3. Local school districts will administer and score tests covering, science, social studies, and health. The districts may either use the state test or develop their own tests that would meet or exceed the content and skills contained in the current version of the Exiting Standards. District developed tests must be approved by the State Board of Education. These tests may be administered at a time determined by local districts.
4. When standards are developed in other subject areas (e.g., humanities), the State will provide a test for local districts to administer and score at a time determined by the district. The local districts may develop their own test provided it meets or exceeds the content and skills of the Exiting Standards and is approved by the State Board of Education.
5. Students who are not successful in passing any part of the district administered or the statewide tests will be offered remediation by the local districts. The process for remediation will be developed by the State Board of Education and is anticipated to be similar to the intervention process developed for the Idaho Reading Initiative.
6. Passing the Exiting Standards tests in all the five subject core area will be a requirement to graduate and receive a state-approved diploma. The cut point between pass and fail will be determined during the development of the exiting tests, the pilot testing phase, and in consultation with local districts. Only students seeking a state-approved diploma are subject to the Exiting Standards testing requirements. This includes students in public schools, charter schools, and state-accredited private schools who issue a state-approved diploma.
7. Students who pass these tests may have the opportunity to take enrichment classes, advanced placement, vocational, and college-prep classes, or perform senior projects and the like prior to graduation. Passing the tests is not a prerequisite for taking any of these classes unless determined to be so by the local districts.
8. Exiting Standards do not impose any changes upon local districts to award diplomas. Districts will still have the option to award diplomas to students based upon individual circumstances.
9. State rules still provide students who are eligible for special education will be able to earn a diploma if they complete graduation requirements established by their individual education program (IEP) team.

10. Districts may request a waiver from current requirements for 25-seat time core credit hours if needed to adjust the curriculum to meet the Exiting Standards requirements.
11. The State Department of Education will assure that local districts develop, administer, and score tests covering math, reading, and writing at the end of the 4th and 8th grades to monitor student progress toward mastering the Exiting Standards. Retention may be considered for students not passing these tests, but it is not required. In all cases, students not performing satisfactorily on all of these tests must be offered remediation opportunities. The nature of the intervention programs will be determined by the local districts and must include the full involvement of the student's parents.
12. All testing currently being conducted by the State will be reviewed and aligned where appropriate with exiting standards. It is not the intention of the Exiting Standards Commission to increase the testing burden on students, teachers and schools.
13. The Idaho Reading Initiative for students in grades K-3 will provide a vital foundation for students and fits well into the overall K-12 educational program as envisioned by the Exiting Standards Commission.